(c) whether Section 8.1 of the UGC regulations for deemed universities bestows the right to institutions to conduct the entrance examination internally; and

(d) if so, whether Government would consider amending this provision to bar such institutions from conducting such examinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Central Government declares institutions 'deemded-to-be-universities' under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956 on the recommendations of the UGC. Institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities' are governed by the guidelines laid down by the UGC. These guidelines also prescribe the procedure relating to the admission policy of the institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities'. Institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities' are at par with Universities for all academic purposes including examination of students enrolled therein. There is no UGC regulation at present for institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities'.

Mandatory Accreditation of Universities and Colleges

2816. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government feels it expedient to make accreditation mandatory for all universities and colleges in order to assess their present status;

(b) whether Government is planning to put in place a grading system under the NAAC covering quality, infrastructure and faculty aspects; and

(c) whether the UGC would follow this granding by NAAC for release of funds and grants to universities and colleges linked to the rank of the grading scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) At present there is no proposal to make the assessment of colleges and universities mandatory. National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), is already following an assessment and grading system that takes into account Curricular Aspects, Teaching-Learning and Evaluation, Research, Consultancy and Extension, Infrastructure and Learning Resources, etc.

According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Commission provides grant to such institutions of higher education and colleges as are recognized under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act and declared fit to receive Central assistance under Section 12(B) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. The institutions accredited by NAAC, however, receive enhanced funding from UGC.

Norms to establish IISER

2817. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any fixed norms to establish Indian Institutes to Science Education and Research in States;

(b) if so, whether Gujarat falls under the norms;

(c) if so, by when Government would establish an Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in Gujarat;

(d) whether there is a target to establish a number of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, how many and where they are going to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The Government of India has set up three Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) at Pune, Kolkata and Mohali and is establishing two more IISERs at Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram. These Institutes have been set up on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, and in such a manner that they are distributed in all broad regions of the country. Gujarat falls in the western region for which an IISER has been established at Pune. At present, there is no proposal to set up more IISERs.

Online CAT examination

2818. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to permit online CAT examinations similar to US examinations like GMAT and GRE, etc., which may help in handling the huge number of students appearing for the test every year;

(b) if so, what would be the *modus operandi* of the scheme with regard to ensuring the transparency; and

(c) whether Government proposes to extend this scheme to all other all India basis exams like Staff Selection Board exams, Railway Recruitment Board exams, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Committee of Chairpersons of the Admissions Committees of the Indian institutes of Management (IIMs)—CAT Group had recommended to the Institute to explore the possibility of conducting CAT on-lines of GMAT/GRE, etc. The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) At present, Staff Selection Commission (SSC) has no such scheme. In so far as Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) exams are concerned, they have already introduced On-line examinations where number of candidates is small/limited.

Suicide by school children

2819. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has taken note of suicides being committed by school children failing in upper primary classes, particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to reform the present examination system so as to do away with annual examinations, at least till the Tenth Standard; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?